

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/825,896

Examiner

Ryan Lepisto

Applicant(s)

SEKIYA ET AL.

Art Unit

2883

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 16 March 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4 and 12-15.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 16 April 2004 and 16 March 2005 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 20050502.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Richard Goldman on 26 April 2005.

1. The application has been amended as follows: Cancel claim 19.

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

2. **Claims 1-4 and 12-15** are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With regard to claims 1 and 12: These claims are allowable over the prior art of record because the latter, either alone or in combination, does not disclose nor render obvious an optical link module with optical waveguides transmitting light intersecting an optical bend prism containing aspherical convex lenses protruding outwardly and integral to the surface of the prism and formed in accordance with the number of light emitting devices and waveguides or an optical information processor with a memory, input/output unit, a light to electric signal converter and a signal generator that responds to instructions of a central processor and includes a driver, surface emitters driven by

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the driver and an optical turn with aspherical lenses, in combination with the rest of the claimed limitations.

With regard to claims 2-4 and 13-15: These claims are allowable over the prior art of record because they depend from allowable claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Clarke et al (US 5,956,163) uses an aspherical lens prism in an image sensing system.
- Ohtaka et al (US 4,992,819) and Koyama et al (US 4,878,078) teach aspherical lens prisms in cameras.
- Takushima et al (US 6,810,170 B2), Ghiron et al (US 2004/0202418 A1) and Bendett et al (US 6,330,388 B1) teach optical turn modules using prisms, in particular Takushima uses a grating structure, Ghiron uses a prism along with

microlens structures apart from the prism and Bendett uses a substrate with waveguides and reflection gratings.

Response to Arguments

4. The replacement drawing has been accepted.
5. The election of Group I has been acknowledged.
6. Applicant's arguments, filed 16 March 2005, with respect to all art used to reject claims have been fully considered and are persuasive due to applicant's amendments to the claims.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ryan Lepisto whose telephone number is (571) 272-1946. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Frank Font can be reached on (571) 272-2415. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Ryan Lepisto

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Date: 5/2/05



Frank Font

Supervisory Patent Examiner

Technology Center 2800